THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad) : (a) to (c) Kulu-Manali region of Himachal Pradesh has been included in the travel circuit of Kulu-Manali-Leh which has been identified in the National Action Plan for tourism by the Central Govt. The State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has to formulate suitable projects proposal for infrastructural development for the region and field the same to the Central Government for extending financial assistance. So far, no proposal has been received from the State Govt. during 1992-93.

Starting Vayudoot service from Trivandrum and Madurai

832. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start Vayudoot service from Trivandrum to Kanyakumari and Madurai to Kanyakumari in the near future ;

(b) if so, by when such a service is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, what are reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad) : (a) to (c) Shortage of aircraft capacity and constrant of other resources do not at present permit starting of air services between Kanyakumari and Trivandrum|Madurai by Vayudoot.

वायुदूत के पास विमान

838 **श्री महेश्वर सिंह** : क्या **नागर विमानन और पर्यटन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय वायुदूत के पास कौन-कौन से और कितने विमान हैं तथा इनमें से कितने विमान पुराने हो चुके है और उड़ान के लिए सुरक्षित नहीं हैं ;

(ख) क्या वायुदूत ने नए विमानों की खरीद हेतु सरकार से अनुदान/वित्तीय सहायता मांगी है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद) : (क) वायुदूत के विमान बेड़े में इस समय आठ डोनियर-228 और आठ एवरो एच. एस.-748 विमान हैं । इनमें से चार डोनियर और तीन एवरो परिचालन में लगे हुए हैं। इन विमानों के लिए नागर विमानन महानिदेशक द्वारा वैध उड़ान-योग्यता प्रमाण-पत्र जारी किए गए हैं ।

(ख) जी नहीं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Contingency plan for Airlines and Hotels

834. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a contingency plan to keep the airlines and the hotel operators functioning in the event of strike by their employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) In the event of strike, need based contingency plans are formulated by the respective organisations to ensure that disruption of services is minimum.

Development of Tourism in Punjab

835. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by his Ministry for the development of tourism in the State of Punjab; and

(b) what is the number of proposals received from the Government of Punjab for development of various tourist spots in the State and what action is being taken by Government of India on this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Government on the basis of specific proposals received from them for augmentation of tourism infrastructure and other tourism related activities depending upon their merit and interse priority.

(b) From the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan till the end of the financial year 1992-93, 30 proposals were received and Rs. 393.83 lakhs sanctioned to the State Government of Punjab, for these proposals.

Overhauling of Tourism Infrastructure in the Country

836. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the total tourism infrastructure in the country requires overhauling in view of the scale of International tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Creation and augmentation of tourist infrastructure is a continuous process for which the Central Government extends financial assistance to the State Governments on the basis of specific proposals. The State Governments do generally formulate such proposals taking into view various trends in tourism.

Dues of the retiring Employees opted for VRS

837. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the hotels including the Hotel Samrat and Ashoka Hotel under the ITDC have still not cleared the dues of retiring employees who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme for more than ten to twelve months;

(b) whether these employees after opting for the Scheme were given out the release letters but without payment;

(c) whether the managements have been delaying the payment in order to cover up their own administrative defaults;

(d) whether these employees under the law would be deemed to be continuing in employment;

(e) whether Government would order immediate enquiry into the matter; and

(f) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (f) Under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme of ITDC, the employees who opted for voluntary retirement were given relieving letters by the ITDC Management with the instructions to collect their dues after submitting 'No Demand Certificate' from all concerned. ITDC has reported that thirteen employees of various hotels who sought voluntary retirement could not be paid dues pending receipt of 'No Demand Certificate' from them, completion of formalities etc.